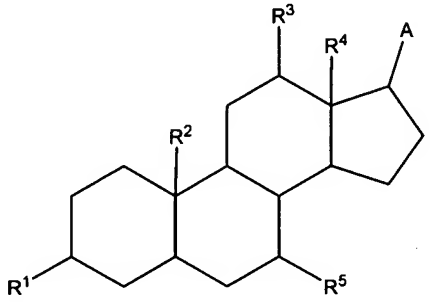
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of administering a pharmaceutical composition, comprising

i) providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y wherein R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is at least one peptide chain of at least 4 amino acids in length which may be linear, branched or comprise two or more cross-linked polypeptide chains and is selected from insulin, calcitonin, secretin, gastrin, gastrin tetrapeptide, gastrin decapeptide, 34 mer-gastrin, and active fragments thereof; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the terminal carboxy of the polypeptide chain, and

ii) orally administering said pharmaceutical composition to a subject in need thereof.

3-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bile salt is mono-, di- or tri-hydroxylated.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bile salt contains a 3α-hydroxyl group.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bile salt is an amphiphilic polyhydric sterol bearing carboxyl groups as part of the primary side chain.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bile salt is underivatised or derivatised.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the bile salt is an underivatised bile salt ~~is~~ selected from cholate, deoxycholate, chenodeoxycholate and ursodeoxycholate.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the bile salt is cholate.

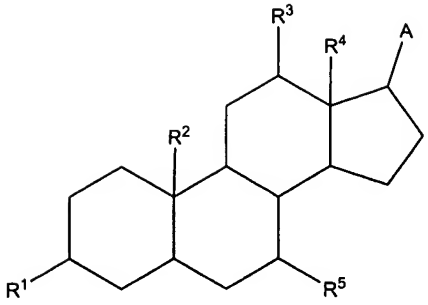
32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29 ~~2~~, wherein the bile salt is a derivatised bile salt ~~is~~ selected from taurocholate, taurodeoxycholate, tauroursodeoxycholate, taurochenodeoxycholate, glycocholate, glycodeoxycholate, glycoursodeoxycholate, glycochenodeoxycholate, taurolithocholate and glycolithocholate.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein the peptide is insulin or an active fragment thereof.

35-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) An orally administrable pharmaceutical composition, comprising an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y, wherein R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is at least one peptide chain of at least 4 amino acids in length which may be linear, branched or comprise two or more cross-linked polypeptide chains; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the terminal carboxy of the polypeptide chain,

wherein the pharmaceutical composition is coated to inhibit degradation in the stomach.

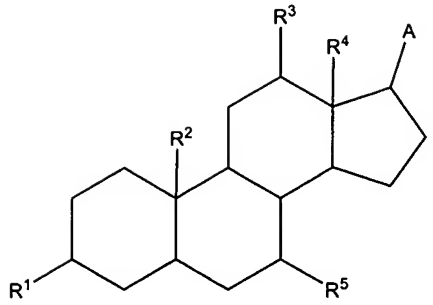
40-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is calcitonin or an active fragment thereof.

44. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is selected from gastrin, gastrin tetrapeptide, gastrin decapeptide, 34 mer-gastrin, and active fragments thereof.

45. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is secretin or an active fragment thereof.

46. (New) A method of treating diabetes mellitus in a subject in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the subject an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

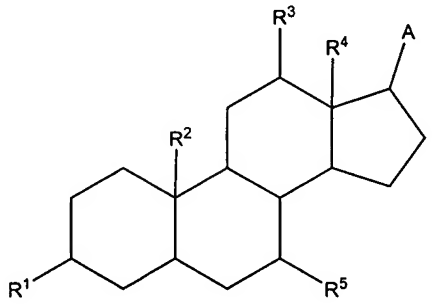
A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y;

R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is insulin or an active fragment thereof; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the terminal carboxy of the peptide.

47. (New) A method of treating osteoporosis in a subject in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the subject an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

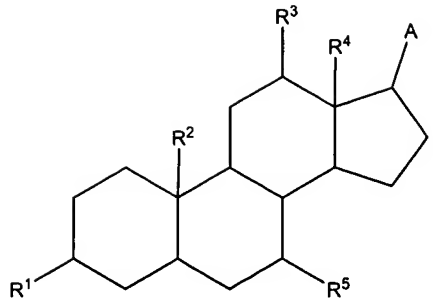
A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y;

R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is calcitonin or an active fragment thereof; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the C-terminus of X.

48. (New) A method of treating a disease associated with a deficiency of secretin in a subject in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the subject an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

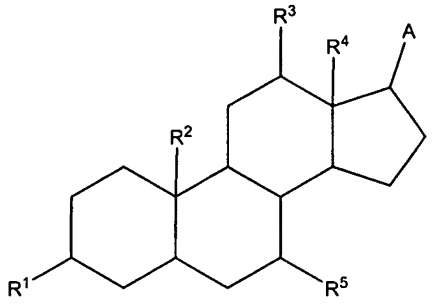
A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y;

R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is secretin or an active fragment thereof; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the C-terminus of X.

49. (New) A method of treating a disease associated with a deficiency of gastrin in a subject in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the subject an amide of a bile acid/salt of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from OH, H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

A is $-R^6$-CO-X-Y;

R^6 is C_2 to C_6 branched or linear alkylene;

X is gastrin, gastrin tetrapeptide, 34 mer-gastrin, or an active fragment thereof; and

Y is OH, NH_2, or a C_1-C_6 ester group bonded to the C-terminus of X.

50. (New) A method according to claim 46, wherein the bile acid salt is cholate.